

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7017 of the First Extraordinary Session

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James C. McSween, Jr.,
for his service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is James C. McSween, Jr., of Newport, an esteemed attorney and longtime community leader who has greatly contributed to the betterment of the lives of his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on September 14, 1930, in Newport, James C. McSween, Jr., is the son of J. Carty McSween and Elizabeth Montgomery McSween and graduated as valedictorian of the Class of 1948 from Cocke County High School; and

WHEREAS, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1952 at the University of Chattanooga, where he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Blue Key, vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha, and chairman of the Honor Council; and

WHEREAS, James McSween, Jr., earned his Bachelor of Law in 1953 at the University of Tennessee College of Law, where he was a member of Phi Delta Phi National Legal Fraternity and served as editor-in-chief of the *Tennessee Law Review*; and

WHEREAS, admitted to the bar in Tennessee on March 9, 1954, Mr. McSween entered the legal profession in practice with his father in Newport for a short tenure before entering the United States Army on June 16, 1954; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country, he was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Fort Holabird in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was discharged on September 30,

1954, in order to accept an appointment as a First Lieutenant with the Judge Advocate General-United States Army Reserve; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McSween completed his basic coursework at the Judge Advocate General's School at the University of Virginia and remained there in Charlottesville as a member of the staff and faculty of the JAG School until his discharge from active duty on September 30, 1957; he continued his service in the Army Reserve until March 15, 1968, when he received his honorable discharge, having attained the rank of Major; and

WHEREAS, James McSween returned to Newport following his military service, resuming his law practice with his father under the firm name McSween & McSween Attorneys, where he has continued to practice alongside family members since that time; and

WHEREAS, upon the death of his father in 1962, he was appointed by Judge Robert R. Taylor to serve in his father's position as United States Commissioner for the Eastern District of Tennessee, now known as the United States Magistrate; he held this part-time post until 1978; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Governor Ray Blanton appointed Mr. McSween to the bench to serve as Chancellor of the Thirteenth Chancery Division for the State of Tennessee, comprising Blount, Cocke, Jefferson, and Sevier counties, in which position he served until 1978; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a Senior Counselor of the Tennessee Bar Association in 2004, Mr. McSween is an interviewer for the Tennessee Board of Law Examiners and a member of the Cocke County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Tennessee Land Title Association, and the American Land Title Association; and

WHEREAS, James McSween has rendered sterling service as a member of the Newport Regional Planning Commission since 1967 and enjoyed tenures as a member of the Cocke County Commission, representing the Sixth Civil District, and the Newport City Board of Education, serving for twenty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, he is a former director of the Boys Club of Newport, past trustee of Carson-Newman College, former member of the Cocke Country Library Board, member and former

president of Kiwanis of Newport, former member of the board of Cocke County Memorial Hospital, and director of Central Charities of Newport and Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, James McSween, Jr., was joined in holy matrimony with Jean Alexander on December 28, 1954, and their joyous union produced three devoted sons, Jimmy, Stephen Alexander, and Phillips Stuart, all of whom followed in their father's footsteps and become attorneys; and

WHEREAS, following the passing of his first wife in 1983, Mr. McSween married Geraldine Webb Kelley in 1985 and gained three treasured stepchildren, Paula Newsome, Rodney, and Barry, each of whom has achieved success in her or his respective professional careers; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband and father, James McSween enjoys his role as grandfather to his ten wonderful grandchildren and his one great-granddaughter, Lucy; and

WHEREAS, he is a longtime member of First Baptist Church, which he serves as a Sunday school teacher, member of the adult choir, Deacon Emeritus, and representative of the church as a director of Union Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McSween epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized for his many accomplishments and his dedication to his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend James C. McSween, Jr., for his years of distinguished service to his community and the State of Tennessee, wishing him much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.